

Stillwell Park Nature Trail, Marlinton WV



County Region- Central

Ownership- Pocahontas County Parks and Recreation and Town of Marlinton

Management- Town of Marlinton,

Telephone- 1-304-799-7386

Habitat and Site Description- A town park with several habitats sites for birding.

Point of Reference- Little General Store at the junction of US219 and SR 39 at the end of the bridge. LO: 38-13'30" N /LA: 80-05'48"

Directions to the trailhead of Stillwell Park

Proceed across the bridge through town on SR 39 about a ¼ mile to Stillwell Park Road, CO-39/2. Drive 0.9 miles to Stillwell Park. Turn right into the park and proceed 0.2 miles to the Gazebo on the left where one parks (LO: 38-12'35"/LA: 80-06'04").

Trail descriptions-

Stillwell trail is about 1.0 mile long in the shape of a rectangle and covers several habitats. The trail starts at the gazebo and follows the Greenbrier River upstream. This is a River and Riparian habitat to the left and overgrown brush and Multiflora Rose to the right. There are several clearings to the left to allow one to reach the river's edge. Woodcock, sparrows, gnatcatchers and numerous warblers can be seen in season. Continue on the trail to an un-mowed field on the right where meadowlarks nest. Also look for kestrels and grasshopper sparrows. Further up, one comes to a river access point and mud-bog-pits where killdeer and snipes have been seen. Finally one comes to the outflow ditch of the sewer pond.

The trail turns right beside the outflow ditch on the left and a mud pit and mowed lawn on the right. Proceed to a point that one can look into the sewer pond, which is used by migratory birds and shore birds including cormorants. At the end of the pond fence is another overgrown area and a place where organic trash is dumped and burned. There seems to be a lot of bird activity here, such as warblers, vireos, catbirds, cardinals and numerous sparrows. Return to the trail and walk to the corner and turn right again.

This part of the trail parallels the Greenbrier River Trail and a wet shrubby ditch in between. Continue along the edge of the open mowed fields that is good habitat for field birds, such as killdeer, bluebirds and sparrows. Further on, a path on the left leads to the Greenbrier River Trail. This trail offers excellent birding.

Continue in the same direction along Greenbrier River Trail with the wet and overgrown brushy ditch on the right and go to the park entrance road, turn right again toward the river. In the spring, the fields are sometimes flooded and one may see migratory shore birds. On the left are river birches and large sycamores, an open woods habitat. Look for woodpeckers, nuthatches and sapsuckers in the birches as well as sparrows and warblers. There is a rest room on the left as one returns to the gazebo. Phoebes to often nest in the gazebo.

The Pocahontas Nature club wishes to thank Randy Bodkins for suggesting this trail and providing guidance and his bird list.